Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of	§	FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
	§	OFFICE OF SECRETARY
Cellular Service and Other	§	31
Commercial Mobile Radio Service	ces §	
in the Gulf of Mexico	§	
	§	WT Docket No. 97-112
Amendment of Part 22 of the	8	CC Docket No. 90-6
Commission's Rules to Provide f	for §	
Filing and Processing of Applica	tions §	
for Unserved Areas in the Cellul	ar §	
Service and to Modify Other	§	
Cellular Rules	§	
	§	

Comments of Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, Inc.

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SUMMARY

Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, Inc. ("SBMS") is licensee through its subsidiary Southwestern Bell Wireless Inc. ("SWBW"), who is also general partner of partnerships in multiple land-based cellular markets bordering the Gulf Coast of Texas. As such, the controversy over the provision of cellular service to that area has complicated the provision of optimal service to its customers and has created artificial constraints that have made it difficult to engineer and design a cellular system that provides reliable service and permits new innovations. Resolution of these controversies with the Gulf based carriers ("GMSA") is a laudable goal set by this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM").

However, it is imperative that the Commission not create a class of service providers (the GMSAs) with rights and privileges that exceed those of other cellular providers to the detriment of their land-based competitors and the customers of these carriers. For instance, permitting GMSAs to place cell sites within the CGSA of the land-based carriers is an example of such unprecedented privilege that would inevitably create interference, confusion and more controversy, all to the detriment of the public.

The Commission is correctly assessing that previously approved extensions into the Gulf should continue, and that rules should be developed regarding unserved areas. However, those rules should not eliminate the Phase I stage of the unserved area rules, which have been applied consistently in the cellular arena.

The appropriate result of this NPRM is to resolve longstanding disputes with fairness to both land-based and GMSA carriers and with little disruption and inconvenience to the public.



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To: THE COMMISSION

Comments of Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, Inc.

Comes now Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, Inc. ("SBMS")¹ and files these comments to the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making ("NPRM") released by the Commission on April 16, 1997, in the above-referenced matter.

¹SBMS files these Comments on behalf of itself and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Southwestern Bell Wireless Inc. ("SWBW"), individually and as general partner of those RSAs/MSAs bordering the Gulf Coast of Texas, including Corpus Christi, Brownsville-Harlingen, Texas 19 - Atascosa, Texas 20 - Wilson.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Commission's stated purpose behind this NPRM is to *reduce* conflict between land-based and water-based carriers, but some of the proposed rules, as written, will inevitably *increase* that tension and create interference issues and confusion, all against the public interest. The Commission's goal to create coastal zones that maximize service to land-based and water-based customers, is laudable. It is the execution of that goal and the presumptions behind some proposals that are problematical. For instance, the Commission proposes permitting land-based transmitters by Gulf Coast carriers (GMSA carriers), claiming the existing prohibition is obsolete. Not only would this create significant interference issues, it would also delay the introduction and expansion of the new services and technologies that require stringent coordination in the digital environment. Delaying or preventing these services is not in the public interest.

The licenses issued by the Commission to licensees contain the following condition:

"Moreover, any facility authorized herein with a service area boundary (SAB) extending into the CGSA of any other operating cellular system on the same channel block . . . is subject to the following condition: In the event that the licensee of the other cellular system requests that the SAB of the facilities authorized herein be removed from its CGSA, the licensee herein must reduce transmitting power or antenna height (or both) as necessary to remove the SAB from the CGSA unless written consent from the licensee of the other cellular system, allowing the SAB extension to remain, is obtained."

See further 47 CFR 22.911(D).

By adopting some of the rules as proposed, the Commission would be rewriting the conditions imposed on all licensees by both the license terms and existing rules, all of which protect significant interests of the public in obtaining interference-free, reliable service. This creates,

rather than reduces, controversy and conflict.

II. ARGUMENT

A. The Commission's Presumptions Regarding Build Out Of The Land-Based Carriers
Fail To Take Into Consideration The Impact Of The Lack Of Resolution Regarding
Critical Extension And Unserved Area Issues.

The NPRM in large part bases its tentative conclusion to permit land-based transmitters by water-based carriers on the fact that the RSA market has been built out and the Gulf region is "mature." What this presumption fails to consider is that the land-based carriers have been in virtual limbo regarding build out and modification of their systems because of the lack of resolution of critical issues regarding major modifications and petitions to deny. The MSA markets (e.g., Corpus Christi, Brownsville-Harlingen) are frozen in time at a snapshot taken when the SIU maps were filed, five years ago. Since that time, land-based carriers have been unable to have modifications approved that involve extensions into the Gulf. This prevents the land-based carriers from responding to increasing customer counts and mobility and usage shifts with appropriate engineering solutions. (Exhibit 1, Affidavit of Hugo Hernandez).

Because of this failure to resolve the Gulf issues, the RSA build outs were likewise impeded.² Systems had to be constructed to be virtually co-terminus with the coastline. (See Exhibit 2, System maps for Texas 19, Texas 20). Given the propensity of radio signals to skip across a water surface, RSA builders were forced to set artificially low power levels in order

²See Modification pending market 670, Texas 19 - Atascosa, File number 02245 CL MP 96 (3/15/96).

to minimize this phenomenon. (Exhibit 3, Affidavit of Charles Kriz, Exhibit 4, Affidavit of Leroy Adams). This resulted in insufficient power levels to meet the needs of the public while on the land, and opened land-based carriers to having their customers set up calls on the powered-up sites of GMSA carriers, thus, incurring roaming charges in the customer's home market. Id. Therefore, the presumption of a well reasoned and optimally engineered build out is based upon faulty logic. Build out, as well as existing service, has been negatively influenced by the longstanding issues the Commission is now attempting to resolve.

B. Operators Should Be Permitted To Continue Existing SAB Extensions Into The Coastal Zone.

While the MSAs have extensions into the Coastal Zone that are not large in size, these extensions are significant to service. (Exhibit 4, System maps for Corpus Christi, Brownsville-Harlingen). Therefore, the Commission's preliminary conclusion that the public interest is best served by allowing SAB extensions that were properly granted to continue, is correct. (See Exhibit 4, Affidavit of Leroy Adams). To do otherwise would severely impact the public interest. For instance, the community of Mustang Island, a favorite vacation site in Texas, would be left with signal strength below -100 dbm. (See Exhibit 3, Affidavit of Charles Kriz). This strength does not permit reliable service.

The Corpus Christi MSA would be forced to shut down three sites, and significantly reduce power to two more sites. <u>Id</u>. Texas RSA 20 would have to significantly reduce power to a site that is currently responsible for 16.47% of the total traffic in the market. <u>Id</u>. Brownsville-Harlingen MSA would have to shut down a site responsible for 12.5% of the total

traffic in the MSA. This same site also provides service to South Padre Island, a popular vacation and condominium area, and would thus plunge the Island to a signal level below -100 dbm. Id. Because of the problems discussed, supra, the service in many of these areas is barely meeting the needs of the public. A further incursion could result in no service at all to the public. Accordingly, these extensions should be continued. The Commission requested comment on whether the same formula should apply to all contours, whether land or water-based. The same formula should be used since coverage will have essentially the same propagation characteristics. (See Exhibit 4, Affidavit of Leroy Adams).

C. The Placement Of Land-Based Facilities In The CGSA Of A Land-Based Carrier By GMSA Carriers Is Technically Infeasible And Violates The Conditions Of The Licenses And Relevant Rules.

Based in part on the faulty presumptions discussed in Part A, <u>supra</u>, the Commission proposes to permit GMSA carriers to place land-based facilities within the CGSA of land-based licensees in contravention of its longstanding policies, rules and licensing conditions.

This is a rule of first impression. Carriers have long entered into contract extensions with neighboring carriers pursuant to 47 CFR 22.912(b). These are negotiated agreements which permit the carrier upon whose territory an incursion is being proposed to ensure there is sufficient coordination and planning to prevent capture of its traffic. Co-licensing or collocating also require detailed agreements. But there has never been an absolute right for a carrier to set up an antennae within the CGSA of another carrier. De minimis extensions are

permitted under the rules,³ so long as the extensions are demonstrably unavoidable for technical reasons of sound engineering design and do not extend into the CGSA of any other licensee's cellular systems on the same channel block without consent. There are sound public policy reasons behind these requirements. Such reasons will be usurped by the proposed rules if the Commission intends to grant an entitlement to these land-based placements. The engineering crucible created by such an entitlement is that GMSA carriers will logically select land sites near the coast where the land-based carriers have been forced into lower power outputs by the historical inability to modify or construct with Gulf incursions. (See Exhibit 4, Affidavit of Leroy Adams). Therefore, the GMSA site will have superior power over neighboring land-based sites. This will create call set-up problems, co-channel interference and inadvertent roaming scenarios within a caller's "home" market. (See Exhibit 1, Affidavit of Hugo Hernandez). This concern is heightened by the GMSA carriers historical reluctance to participate in the fundamental frequency coordination engaged in by cellular carriers on an on-going basis.

Further, as SBMS introduces IS-136 capability into these markets, the potential problems increase exponentially. <u>Id</u>. The deployment of DCCH (Digital Control Channel) requires a more strict carrier to interference ratio than analog systems. <u>Id</u>. IS-136 will make available to the public many advances such as short messages service, sleep mode, extended battery life, Caller I.D., fraud prevention, and is a key component to meeting PCS competition. <u>Id</u>. However, implementation requires a new frequency plan with 58 channels

³47 CFR 22.912(a)

that must be cleared from the analog frequency plan. Id. This is in addition to "fine tuning" sites with neighbors in order to minimize RF penetration. Id. Therefore, the Commission's proposal is not nearly as simple and progressive as it sounds. At a minimum, stringent restrictions on interference and frequency coordination must be imposed. The better solution is to require consent of the land-based carrier who can thus ensure all coordination matters are resolved in advance, encourages carriers to negotiate reciprocal extensions that benefit rather than befuddle the public, and enables a carrier to fulfill the conditions of its license. Also, see Exhibit 4, Affidavit of Leroy Adams.

D. The Proposed Coastal Zone Should Not Be So Broadly Defined That It Creates Unnecessary Expense For The Public.

The inland waters of the Gulf along the Corpus Christi shore and down the Brownsville, Texas coastline are mainly used by recreational and commercial fishermen. According to the <u>Texas Almanac</u>, the Texas Gulf comprises approximately 4,000,000 acres of saltwater and bays reaching about 9 nautical miles into the Gulf.⁵ These waters annually are used by approximately 20,000 commercial fishermen and an estimated 1,000,000 recreational fishermen. <u>Id</u>.

⁴"Moreover, any facility authorized herein with a service area boundary (SAB) extending into the CGSA of any other operating cellular system on the same channel block . . . is subject to the following condition: In the event that the licensee of the other cellular system requests that the SAB of the facilities authorized herein be removed from its CGSA, the licensee herein must reduce transmitting power or antenna height (or both) as necessary to remove the SAB from the CGSA unless written consent from the licensee of the other cellular system, allowing the SAB extension to remain, is obtained."

⁵Texas Almanac, 1996-97, pp. 100.

Land-based carriers can economically serve much of this area. (See Exhibit 1, Affidavit of Hugo Hernandez, Exhibit 4, Affidavit of Leroy Adams). The public would have the advantage of home rates for residential customers, and negotiated roaming rates for other traffic. Customers of SBMS have complained of exorbitant rates charged by GMSA carriers during recreational boating expeditions. Id. In many cases, customers report they dial a 7 digit number and then receive a large bill from a GMSA carrier who charges as if a 10 digit "toll" call had been made. Id., Exhibit 1. While customers express their frustration at these inflated rates, SBMS is powerless to assist. By pulling the proposed Coastal Zone back to the proposed Exclusive Zone, these customers could receive adequate service at reasonable rates. SBMS therefore recommends the Exclusive Zone serve as the boundary. (See Exhibit 4, Affidavit of Leroy Adams).

Uniform boundaries lend themselves to easy and unambiguous definition and interpretation. Such boundaries would eliminate the cumbersome task of defining to every interested parties satisfaction all the would-be variations in the boundary, follow-on documentation of the boundary, and case-by-case studies concerning SAB encroachments. Id.

A level of conflict will exist regarding the definition and imposition of any "after-the-fact" boundary. Such conflict can be expected in the Gulf markets but a clear, unambiguous boundary and rules which are clearly stated will minimize them. The economies and efficiencies thus realized can benefit the public both directly (less costly service) and indirectly (less government involvement). Id.

⁶See Exhibit 4, page 2, regarding the approximate distance from shore over which a land-based transmitter can provide reliable coverage.

Consistency with existing rules will also contribute to the economies and efficiencies described above. Whether or not a "Coastal Zone" is created, a uniform boundary is consistent with the manner in which original cellular market boundaries were defined. A provision to allow water-based and land-based service area boundaries that extend across the market boundary to be incorporated into the CGSA of the carrier currently providing the service would eliminate the need for non-uniform boundaries in the vicinity of high density areas and would be consistent with current rules. <u>Id</u>. Where no service exists the uniform boundary would remain.

Areas remaining unserved should be treated in accordance with the rules pertaining to unserved area, including the Phase I portion of those rules.

E. <u>Unserved Area Applications and Other Issues</u>

SBMS agrees that the proposal to permit resubmissions for unserved areas within the Coastal Zone following adoption of the new rules is reasonable, as is the competitive bidding solution for mutually exclusive applications, but only after incumbents are given the opportunity for optimal use of unserved area under Phase I rules, as has been the rule in all other cellular areas. Skipping Phase I is unfair to incumbents and does not serve the public interest.

The proposal in paragraph 44 of the NPRM is badly reasoned and bypasses the longstanding rules of service area boundaries and CGSA. See Argument, <u>supra</u>. (See Exhibit 4, Affidavit of Leroy Adams). Paragraph 45's proposal to modify the definition of SAB extensions is appropriate as is the proposal in paragraph 47. <u>Id</u>.

The proposal to draft separate orders for pending applications for land-based transmitters could create a problem if the Commission were to base a decision in favor of an application based upon prospective rules that were not in existence at the time of filing.

For reasons of regulatory parity, SBMS supports efforts to adopt licensing and operational rules for non-cellular CMRS in the Gulf. These rules should be comparable to those affecting cellular carriers.

III. CONCLUSION

The NPRM is an ambitious attempt to solve longstanding disputes. SBMS supports the resolution, but cautions the Commission to avoid a rush to a conclusion that sacrifices improved network reliability, lack of interference and new customer options to placate a segment of the cellular community.

Respectfully submitted,

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Vice President and General Counsel for SOUTHWESTERN BELL MOBILE SYSTEMS, INC.

and

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AFFIDAVIT OF HUGO HERNANDEZ

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BEXAR

Hugo Hernandez, being duly sworn, deposes and states:

- 1. My name is Hugo Hernandez. I am over 21 years of age and am legally and mentally competent to make this affidavit. The facts stated herein are true and correct and are within my personal knowledge. I am a Manager-System Engineering in the RF Design Group for Southwestern Bell Wireless, Inc., (SWBW) South Texas Region, and office out of San Antonio, Texas. I have been engineering the design of cellular systems since 1990. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, Monterrey, Mexico. In this capacity, I supervise and oversee the daily work of three Radio Frequency (RF) design engineers and work daily with applying the standards for determining reliable cellular service along the Texas Gulf coastline.
- 2. In an effort to provide comments to the Federal Communications Commission's Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in WT Docket No. 97-112 and CC Docket No. 90-6, specifically, to Section III, Paragraph 40, I have conducted studies utilizing the CNET cellular system database.
- 3. The following analysis is based on the Southwestern Bell Wireless Prediction Tool called WINGS (Wireless Network Graphics System) from CNET. SWBW in the South Texas Region, which includes the following markets that encompass part of the Texas Coastline, uses the Prediction Program TIREM (Terrain Integrated Rough Earth Model) for the design of new and existing cell sites in this area.
- 4. This program computes path losses incurred between a fixed base station location and evenly spaced sampling points in the vicinity of the site. TIREM is derived from the NTIS (National Technical Information Service) Master Propagation System TIREM-11 implementation. TIREM analyzes the radio path geometry between a base station site and a mobile unit location within the study area. Based on intervening the terrain culled from a digitized terrain database, TIREM determines the factors which control radio propagation for the path. These path geometry calculations are performed for all points in the designated study area. Attenuation factors can be summed with this information giving the engineer a complete, detailed analysis of the expected coverage from a particular site. In this case no additional attenuation factor was added.
- 5. The proposed locations were used from previously filed Coastel data. The specifications of antenna type, antenna centerlines and ERP are based on the SWBW engineering standards. These two sites were previously proposed by Coastel to be located on piers along the coastline and immediately adjacent to the SWBW Corpus Christi CGSA (Corpus Christi SMSA Limited Partnership—Market 112-B1).

Figure 1 shows the most likely server coverage analysis plot based on the TIREM model.

Color	Signal L	evel	Description
Green	-70.0 dBm to	- 0.0 dBm	In Building Hand-held
Marine Blue	-80.0 dBm to	-70.1 dBm	Hand-held
Light Blue	-90.0 dBm to	-80.1 dBm	Suburban
Magenta	-100.0 dBm to	-90.1 dBm	Rural/Installed Unit
Yellow	-105.0 dBm to	-100.1 dBm	Weak Signal
Red	-110.0 dBm to	-105.1 dBm	No Service/Dropped Calls

- 6. Figures 2 and 3 show the most likely server coverage analysis plot with SWBW and each of the two proposed Coastel sites. The antenna selection, ERP, antenna centerlines, and azimuths are one of the possible "best case scenarios" from the SWBW standpoint. This means that the selected antennas are pointing in the direction of the Gulf of Mexico and not back unto land. However, the back and the side lobe of the antennas allow these proposed sites to be the most likely server in the highlighted areas.
- As can be seen, the downlink signal levels on land are significantly high. This means that SWBW customers may be setting up calls on a foreign cell site; in this case Coastel 1 and Coastel 2. By setting up calls on a different system, the SWBW customer will be paying roaming charges in their home service area.
- 7. Figure 4 shows a "Composite Best Server Plot" for the proposed Coastel 1 and Coastel 2 cell sites. As described above, the SWBW customer will be affected in areas where Coastel 1 and Coastel 2 are the best server sites. This areas are highlighted in the plots.
- 8. By allowing GMSA carriers to place transmitters on land, the interference problems will increase significantly. In this particular example, the SWBW Corpus Christi market is a mature cellular system where the spectrum reuse factor has increased in the past few years. To better control the C/I and the frequency reuse, the Corpus Christi market has increased the number of sectorized cell sites. Also, more sites are being modified from their prior configuration by decreasing the ERP, using mechanical and electrical downtilt, etc. The current performance of the system is being monitored on a monthly basis utilizing different kinds of equipment. Reports of quality are produced to measure the system overall quality.

By adding transmitters from other carriers with strong signals, like the ones shown in Figures 2 and 3, the chance of co-channel interference will increase, causing cross-talk and dropped calls, setup glares (different cell sites with the same control channel), and call setup problems.

- 9. Additionally, if Coastel were to place a cell site in this area, there is the distinct possibility of SWBW mobiles overdriving the preamps in the Coastel site. The mobiles could operate at full power near Coastel's receiving antennas, thereby overdriving their preamps and causing cross-talk and/or dropped calls for the mobiles being served by the Coastal land-based cell. No matter what kind of "special configuration" the new cell site may have, by this I mean directional antennas pointing into the Gulf of Mexico, there will be some areas where the "foreign carrier" (GMSA) will be stronger than the inland Carrier, thus causing the problems described above.
- 10. Complaints from customers in the South Padre Island (Brownsville-Harlingen MSA) indicate that the GMSA carriers are not requiring 10 digit dialing for SWBW or other land-based customers who are roaming on their systems. The effect is that when an SWBW customer places a 7 digit call and is connected through the GMSA facilities, he is billed at higher rates.

- 11. SWBW is moving toward the CDPD (Cellular Digital Packet Data) and IS-136 (TDMA). For SWBW, IS-136 is a key network development. The deployment of DCCH (Digital Control Channel) will require a more strict C/I (Carrier to Interference) ratios than FDMA (Analog system). DCCH will likely be deployed in the Corpus Christi and Brownsville/Harlingen areas in early 1998. Services like SMS (Short Message Service), Sleep Mode, extended battery life, Caller ID, Fraud prevention, and Public/Private system differentiation will be provided via the DCCH implementation.
- 12. In order to implement DCCH, it will require a new frequency plan (Alternate K=7) for these areas. Fifty eight channels (58) from the expanded band channels 767-766 have to be "cleared" from the existing analog voice frequency plan. If another RF carrier in this range is on the air without the home market being informed as to its existence, it will create additional problems and different problems in this digital environment, such as BER (Bit Error Rate), increase in the setup failures and increase of dropped calls.
- 13. CDPD and Circuit Switched Packet Data are also going to be deployed in these Markets to implement new data features for our customers. This will require additional management of the frequency blocks assigned to this service. Some of the data services are still under development and at this point we do not know how critical the frequency assignments will be.
- 14. Again, if all these new services are going to be provided in the near future, frequency assignment and frequency coordination with neighboring markets is critical in order to minimize interference into each other. Frequency assignment is not the only issue with neighbor markets. We dedicate a lot of time "fine tuning" our sites with neighboring carriers like Telcel and GTE by changing antennas, increasing the mechanical or electrical downtilt, utilizing different kinds of antennas, etc., in order to minimize the RF penetration into our markets. Any placement by other carriers of sites in our CGSA's will result in unacceptable interference.

Attachments: Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

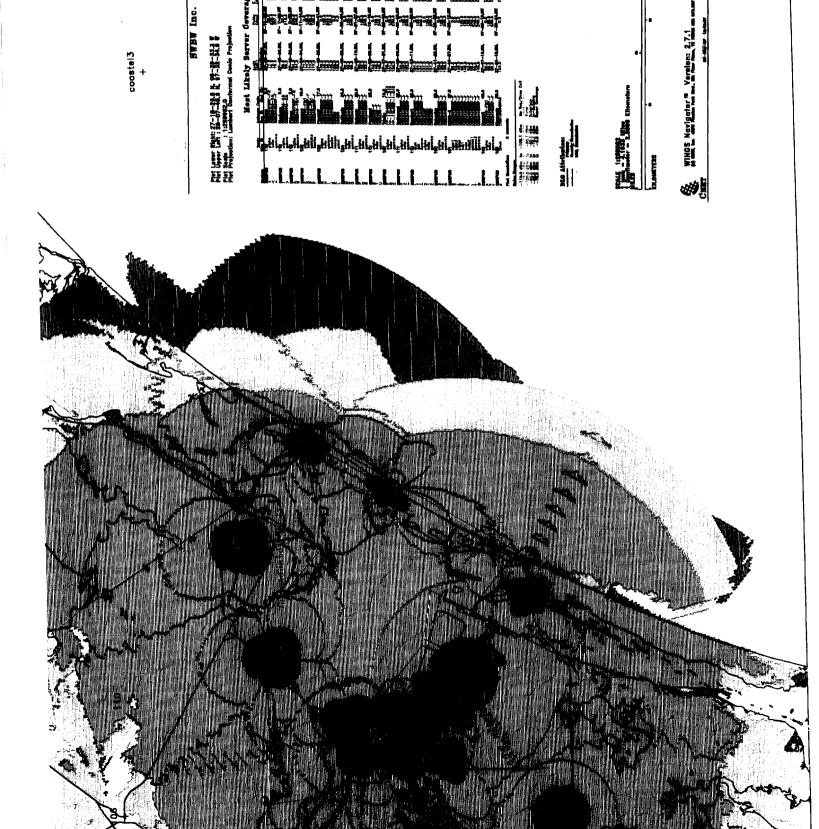
Hugo Hernandez

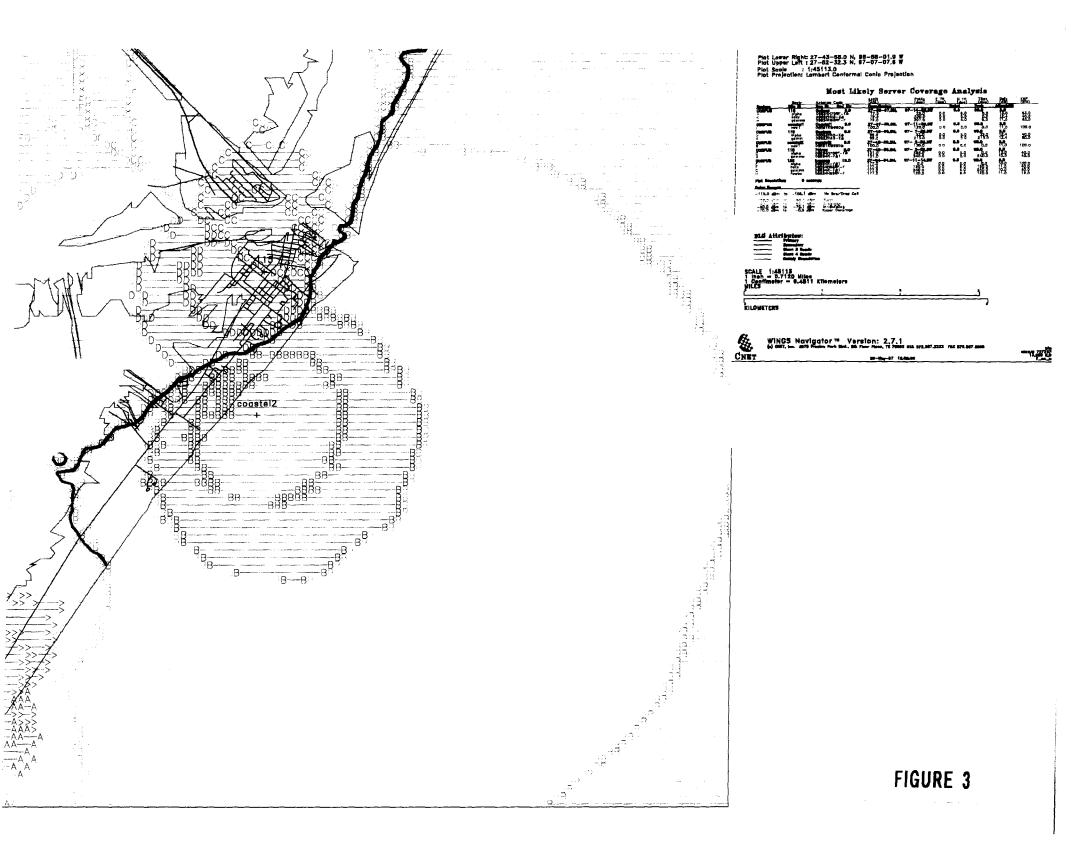
Subscribed and sworn to me this

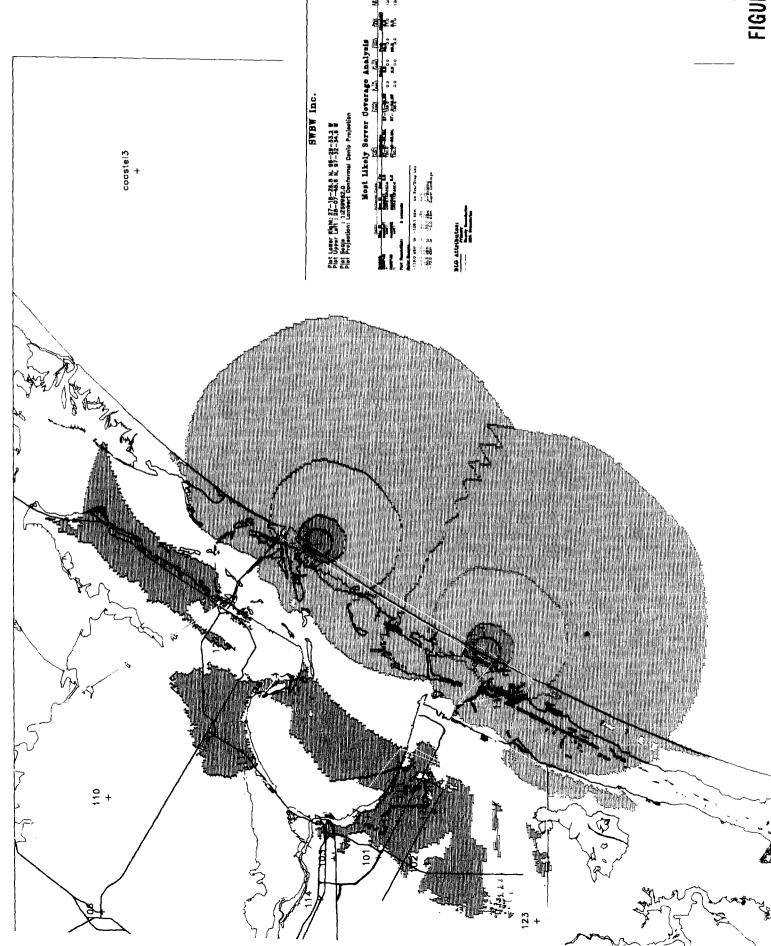
_day of May<u>\9</u>97

Notary Public

DORA E. WILLARS MY COMMISSION EXPIRES November 18, 1999







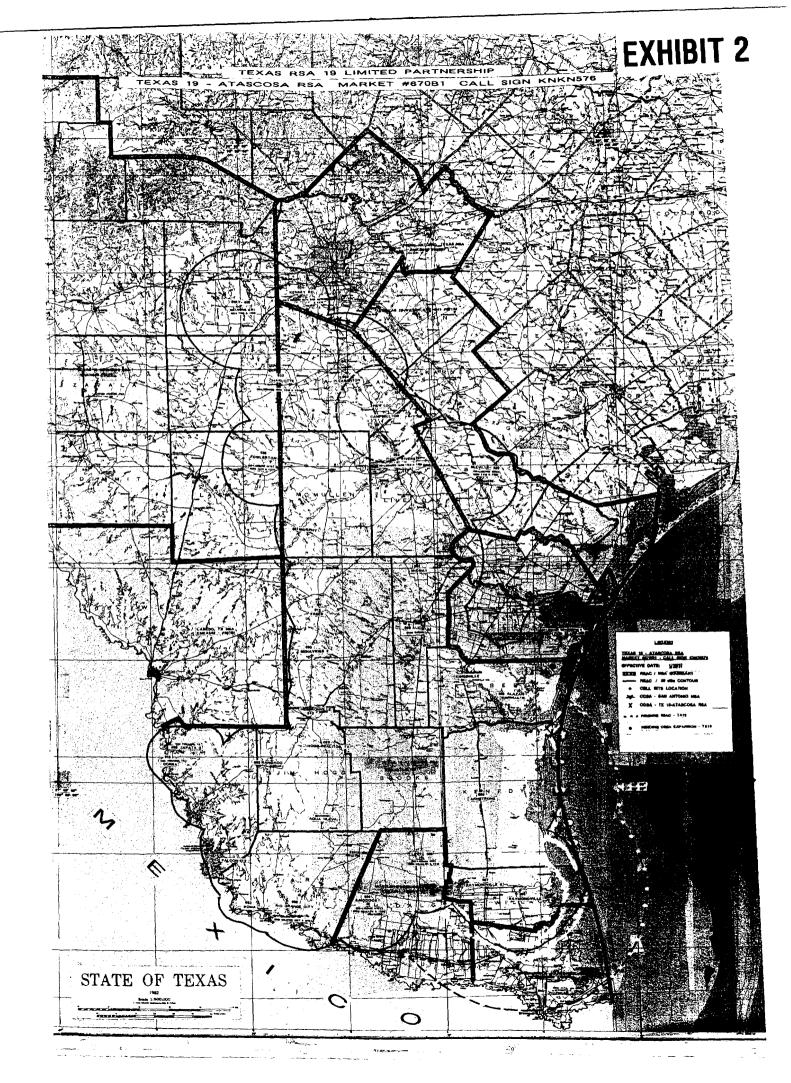
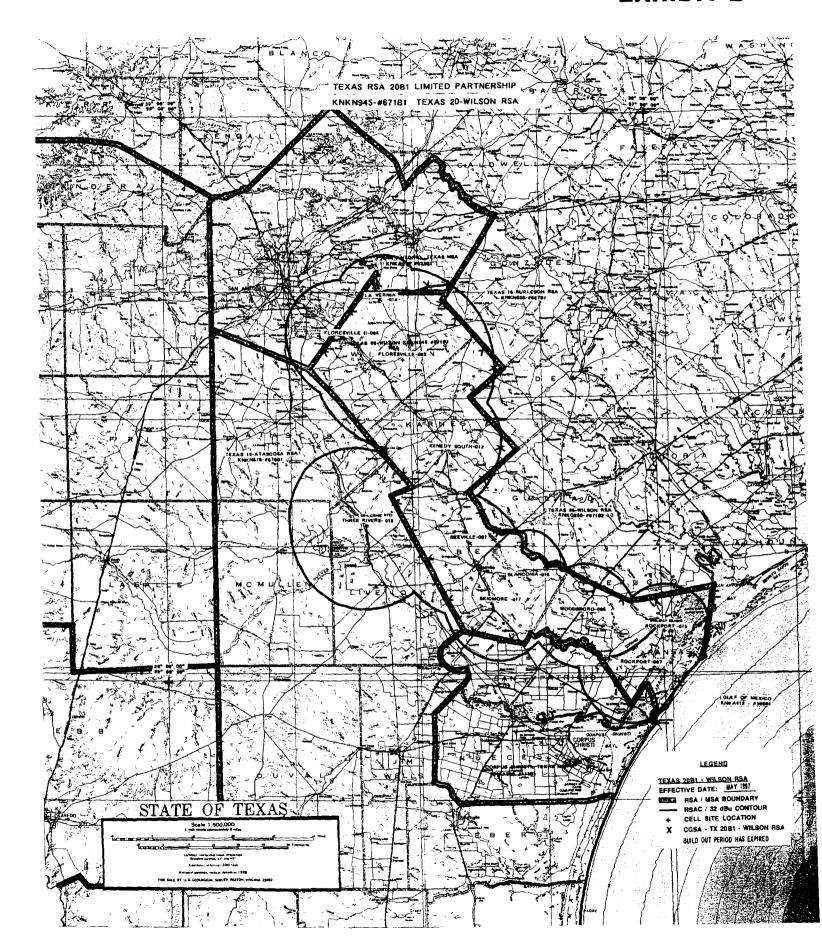


EXHIBIT 2



AFFIDAVIT OF CHARLES KRIZ

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BEXAR

Charles Kriz, being duly sworn, deposes and states:

- 1. My name is Charles Kriz. I am over 21 years of age and am legally and mentally competent to make this affidavit. The facts stated herein are true and correct and are within my personal knowledge. I am a Radio Frequency Design Engineer for Southwestern Bell Wireless, Inc., (SWBW) South Texas Region, and office out of San Antonio, Texas. I have been engineering the design of cellular systems since October, 1994. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Texas A & M University, College Station, TX. In this capacity, I work daily with applying the standards for determining reliable cellular service along the Texas Gulf Coastline.
- 2. In an effort to provide comments to the Federal Communications Commission's Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in WT Docket No. 97-112 and CC Docket No. 90-6, specifically, to Section III, Paragraph 36, I conducted studies utilizing the CNET cellular system database, to determine the advantages and disadvantages of allowing existing authorizations to continue operation versus requiring all carriers to 'pull back' any SABs that extend into the proposed Coastal Zone."
- 3. Existing SWBW Reliable Service Area Contours (RSACs) for sites which presently extend *de minimis* into the Coastal Zone, provide cellular service where no other B-band cellular type service is available. Existing subscribers are able to place and receive calls in these areas. If these SAB's were pulled back, subscribers would probably pay higher prices for service if GMSA carriers ultimately serve these customers. The higher rates charged by GMSA carriers is well documented and is acknowledged by the Gulf Carriers as referenced in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, Section III, Para. 34.
- 4. To evaluate the effects of pulling back existing SABs, I computed the best case scenarios for those sites affected. Following are my findings. Also attached as Exhibits 1-4 are the contour and coverage plots substantiating the following finding:
 - A. If Southwestern Bell Wireless is required to pull its contours out of the Gulf of Mexico, several key cell sites will be affected in the Corpus Christi MSA. These key sites will require changes ranging from reducing the ERP to turning the site off completely.

- B. In the Corpus Christi MSA, the following cell sites would need to be taken off the air: Port Aransas (#115), Galleon Bay (#116), and Mustang Island (#118). These sites are located very near to the Corpus Christi MSA/Gulf of Mexico GMSA boundary. It is not possible to reduce ERP or change the antenna configuration and not have the 32 dBu contours extend into the Gulf of Mexico. These three cell sites account for up to 5.7% of the market's total traffic. This is a significant reduction in the overall traffic capacity of the Corpus Christi MSA. These cell sites also provide service on Mustang Island, a very popular vacation area with resort condominiums. Without these sites, the signal level on Mustang Island would fall below -100 dBm. This signal level is inadequate to provide reliable service to our customers.
- C. The following two sites would require an ERP reduction: Flour Bluff (#108) and Aransas (#122). At the Flour Bluff site, the beta face ERP would need to be reduced from 100 watts to 16 watts. Also, the omni setup ERP would need to be reduced from 100 watts to 16 watts. The beta face ERP reduction would reduce the signal level below -90 dBm along areas of State Highway 358. At this signal level, it will be more difficult to use handheld phones (0.6 watt) in those areas. Also, the omni setup ERP reduction would negatively affect our customer's ability to place a call on the Flour Bluff site. Again, the omni setup ERP reduction would reduce the signal level below -90 dBm in certain areas. At the Aransas site, the beta face ERP would need to be reduced from 40 watts to 16 watts. This ERP reduction would degrade service along State Highway 361 and in the Redfish Bay.
- D. In the Texas 20 market, Rockport (#147) would also suffer from an ERP reduction. The ERP is presently at 100W and would need to be at 75W to keep the contours out of the Gulf of Mexico. This reduction would then decrease our coverage area by 9.5%. This would mean that customers in specific areas such as along highway 35 may not be able to place calls following the ERP reduction, especially those customers using portable phones. Currently this site is responsible for 16.47% of the total traffic in the Texas 20 market.
- E. In the Brownsville-Harlingen MSA, the South Padre Island cell site (#038) would need to be taken off the air. This site is located very near to the Brownsville-Harlingen MSA/Gulf of Mexico GMSA boundary. It is not possible to reduce ERP or change the antenna configuration and not have the 32 dBu contours extend into the Gulf of Mexico. Of all the sites in the Brownsville-Harlingen MSA, this cell site accounts for up to 12.5% of the market's total traffic. This is a significant reduction in the overall traffic capacity of the Brownsville-Harlingen MSA. This cell site provides service on Padre Island, a very popular vacation area with resort condominiums. Without this site, the signal level on Padre Island would fall below -100 dBm. This signal level is inadequate to provide reliable service to our customers.

- F. The Laguna Vista site would require an antenna change. Presently, the Laguna Vista site utilizes a PD10183 omnidirectional antenna. In order to pull the Laguna Vista contour out of the Gulf of Mexico, the antenna would be changed to a CVO-10800S offset-omni model pointed at a 270° azimuth. With this change, the signal level quality along State Highway 100 east of the Laguna Vista site will be significantly affected. In areas that are adequately covered now, the signal level will fall below -90 dBm to as low as -99 dBm. At this signal level, it will be more difficult to use handheld phones (0.6 watt) in those areas.
- 5. These calculations support the fact our contention that any "pulling back' of existing SAB's into the Coastal Zone would be detrimental to service presently provided to existing and proposed customers of SWBW.

Attachments:

- 1. Existing Corpus Christi MSA System Contours
- 2. Reduced Corpus Christi MSA System Contours if existing SABs extending into the Coastal Zone have to be reduced.
- 3. Existing Corpus Christi Coverage Plots
- 4. Corpus Christi Coverage Plots if existing SABs extending into the Coastal Zone have to be reduced.
- 5. Existing Brownsville-Harlingen MSA System Contours
- 6. Reduced Brownsville-Harlingen MSA System Contours if existing SABs extending into the Coastal Zone have to be reduced.
- 7. Existing Brownsville-Harlingen Coverage Plots.
- 8. Brownsville-Harlingen Coverage Plots if existing SABs extending into the Coastal Zone have to be reduced.
- 9. Existing TX RSA 20 System Contours
- 10. Reduced TX RSA 20 System Contours if existing SABs extending into the Coastal Zone have to be reduced.
- 11. Existing TX RSA 20 Coverage Plots
- 12. TX RSA 20 Coverage Plots if existing SABs extending into the Coastal Zone have to be reduced.

Charles Kriz

Subscribed and sworn to me this

day of May 1997

Notary Public

DORA E. WILLARS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
November 18, 1999